# FISCAL NOTE

# HB 419 - SB 392

February 24, 2003

**SUMMARY OF BILL:**    Requires an automatic recount of all votes cast in any election held in this state when two candidates are within one-tenth (l/10) of one percent (1%) of each other in determining the outcome of a race.  This automatic recount shall only apply to elections for Governor, members of the General Assembly, United States Senator and members of the United States House of Representatives, and to any county election.  The recount certification shall be completed no later than 7 days after the deadline for the original certification.  The deadline for the recount certification in multi-county districts or statewide races shall be determined by the State Election Commission.

## ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

**Increase Local Govt. Expenditures - Not Significant**

*For informational purposes*, it should be noted that significant local government expenditures relative to an automatic recount would be incurred only if a statewide recount was necessary.  It is estimated that such cost could exceed $289,000.  Under the provisions of the bill, recounts might or might not occur and might be required at the county or state level.  The cost of such recount would depend upon the kind of election, whether the recount was required statewide, whether the recount was required to be done in a single jurisdiction or multi-jurisdiction.  A recount would be a rare occurrence for a statewide election, while recounts in local races would probably occur more frequently.  This estimate is based on an automatic recount by hand at an average cost of $5,000 per recount for punchcard and optical scan counties and an average cost in all other counties of $2,000.  However, any local expenditures for an automatic recount at the local level in any given election are estimated to be not significant.

## CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

James A. Davenport, Executive Director

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